

20.—Electrical Service to Rural Power Districts Operated by The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, Years Ended Oct. 31, 1945-49

Item	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Rural operating areas..... No.	121	92	92	97	96
Townships served..... "	468	469	473	497	540
Customers..... "	159,608	177,605	196,506	230,760	262,859
Primary distribution lines..... miles	22,309	23,663	24,374	29,532	33,127
Power supplied (maximum)..... kw.	98,899	122,660	145,854	169,439	202,073
Revenues from customers..... \$	6,094,010	7,203,192	8,451,058	9,762,049	11,370,166
Total expenses..... \$	5,795,063	7,146,610	8,360,570	9,763,736	13,346,962
Net surpluses..... \$	298,947	56,582	90,488	-1,687	-1,976,796
Capital invested..... \$	44,536,481	49,296,971	55,126,269	67,596,984	89,331,733
Provincial grants-in-aid..... \$	22,022,424	24,391,821	27,192,870	33,380,778	44,085,529

Manitoba.—The Manitoba Power Commission commenced its operations in 1919 under the authority of the Electrical Power Transmission Act. This Act empowered the Commission to make provision for generating electric energy, to enter into contracts for the purchase of power in bulk from generating agencies, and for its transmission and sale to municipalities, corporations and individuals. The first stretch of transmission line was completed in 1920 from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie.

For the first ten years power was purchased in bulk from the Winnipeg Hydro-Electric System. At the expiration of this period, the Seven Sisters Agreement between the Manitoba Government and the Winnipeg Electric Company provided for the reservation of a block of power for the Power Commission.

The Manitoba Power Commission Act of 1931 provided for the reorganization of the utility's administration. Bulk contracts were cancelled and service begun direct to the consumer, municipalities and towns having contracts for street lighting only. This made possible the adoption of a policy by which the Commission might eventually establish standard rates for all towns and villages regardless of distance from the source of supply or the sparseness of population.

The expansion of the utility since 1931 shows the importance of this reorganization. In 1931 there were 56 cities, towns and villages on the System; 281 communities were served in 1948. Revenues increased from \$700,000 to over \$3,284,000. Rate reductions, meanwhile, have reduced the average customer cost per kilowatt-hour by 50 p.c.

The successful growth of the network to the majority of the cities, towns and villages of the Province, made it possible for the Commission to consider a project of extending electric service to the farms. The Manitoba Electrification Enquiry Commission appointed by the Provincial Government in 1942 to study farm electrification in the Province, reported electric service could be brought to at least 90 p.c. of the farms in the Province. Previously, individual or small groups of farms situated near existing low voltage transmission lines were connected on a contributory basis.

Construction under the farm program began on an experimental basis in 1945 when transmission lines were built to serve 674 farms in seven test areas. Under the farm electrification program the Commission bears the expense of building the power line right into the farm-yard, the farmer being responsible for his yard and interior wiring, and for the purchase of appliances. Post-war shortage of line materials restricted this program to 1,500 farms in 1946 and 3,500 in 1947. Substitution of